

GAME PREVIEW
Kansas State

FIVE QUESTIONS
Eric Martin

BIG 12 CLOSURE
Solid Investment

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

Lavonte
David

LOOKING AHEAD?

Huskers enter Big 12 play after
surviving scare from South Dakota St.



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NEXT ISSUE

Volume 30, Issue 12, the Kansas State recap and Texas preview, will be mailed Monday, Oct. 11. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.



HUSKERS
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ON THE COVER

4 on 4? Junior linebacker Lavonte David chases down South Dakota State quarterback Thomas O'Brien. David finished with 19 tackles, the most by a Husker since Barrett Ruud had 19 tackles at Kansas State in 2004. David also added two pass breakups and one quarterback hurry.

Photo by Scott Bruhn

DISAPPOINTING PERFORMANCE

Huskers absent in final Big 12 tuneup

WE WROTE IN the last week's issue how Nebraska could benefit from a game against South Dakota State, despite the perception that the Cornhuskers could get more of a test from a scrimmage. After all, it is a chance to go out and iron out some wrinkles, right?

I guess we'll never know. The Huskers failed to show up on Saturday, a rarity during Bo Pelini's tenure.

Nebraska couldn't generate a push on the offensive line. Nebraska's defense struggled to get the South Dakota State offense off the field.

If you can find one positive from Saturday's lackluster 17-3 win over the Jackrabbits, aside from winning the game, please drop me a note and let me know. I sure can't find any.

On a night when fans expected to see a heavy dose of second and third string players, they instead saw first string players taking snaps on the final plays of the game. Backup quarterback Cody Green took several snaps, but that was a result of necessity, rather than luxury. He replaced Taylor Martinez, who lost a fumble and threw two interceptions in a freshman-like performance.

How about Lavonte David's 19 tackles? That had to be a positive, a reporter suggested following the game.

Bo Pelini didn't agree.

"Lavonte David might have had 19 tackles, he has a lot to fix," Pelini said. "It goes well beyond statistics."

I guess one positive is that Nebraska has plenty of time to fix these problems, as the Cornhuskers have 10 days off



before playing its Big 12 opener at Kansas State on national television.

Typically, such a schedule would allow the team to enjoy an off day right?

"I don't want to talk about that right now. We should be pretty fresh, we had a day off today," Pelini said.

I can't disagree.

Pelini's frank comments after the game appeared to originate more from disappointment than anger. He knew this was a wasted opportunity for his team to improve.

"I always believe when you walk out there you're going to get better or you're going to get worse," Pelini said. "We got worse today. I call it as I see it. I'm not going to try and paint a picture that is different."

But in typical Pelini fashion, he didn't just point fingers at his players.

"We didn't execute our offense, for a lot of times we didn't execute defensively," Pelini said. "It all comes down to our football team wasn't ready to play for whatever reason. That comes squarely back to the guy in charge. I take responsibility."

Overall Saturday was a heavy dose of humility for the Huskers. Whether that's a positive remains to be seen. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.





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SOLID INVESTMENT

The cost of Nebraska's leaving the Big 12 Conference and joining the Big Ten will be \$9.255 million, unless the Cornhuskers are one of two conference teams to play in a BCS bowl this season. Then the fee would be reduced by \$500,000, to \$8.755 million. »

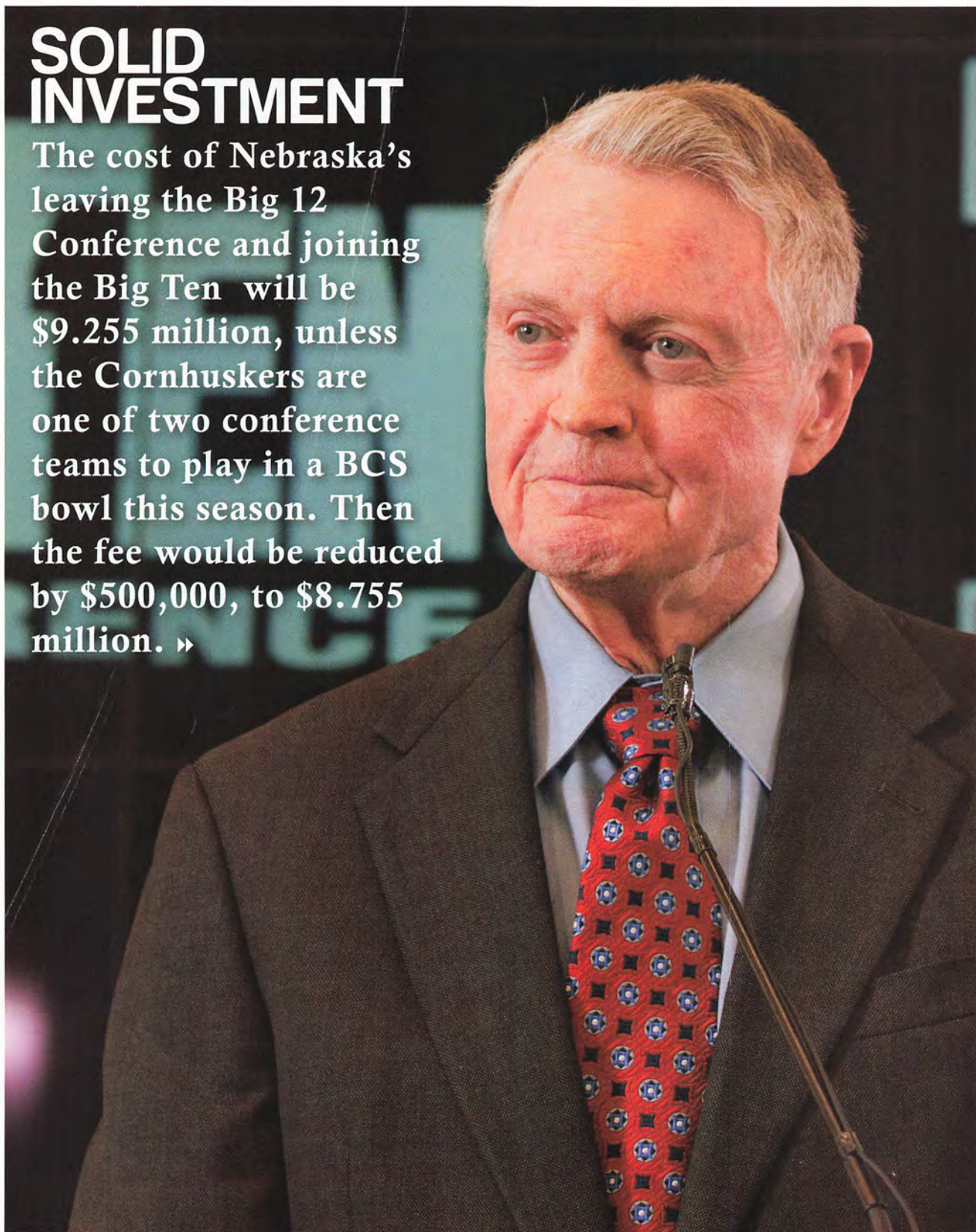


PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

Either way, Nebraska's departure is less expensive than the original estimate, based on Big 12 by-laws, and well worth the money, according to Athletic Director Tom Osborne.

"We feel the long-term benefits of entering into the Big Ten, both academically and athletically, will make this a very good investment," he said in a University Communications release.

The original fee estimate was \$19.37 million, or about what Nebraska would receive in revenue from the conference for the last two years of its participation in the Big 12. Nebraska has received approximately \$10 million in revenue from the Big 12 in each of the past four years.

The \$9.255 million will be withheld from those final two years' revenue.

The revenue is generated through league television contracts, bowl games, the NCAA basketball tournament and other championship events.

The settlement, which had yet to be approved by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, was accomplished through negotiation rather than legal proceedings.

"The University of Nebraska believes this is a fair settlement of our disagreement regarding the appropriateness in this instance of imposing any monetary fee on the university for withdrawing from the conference," Chancellor Harvey Perlman said in the release.

"We continue to value our ongoing relationships with the institutions of the Big 12 and have great respect for their leadership and the leadership of the conference."

When Nebraska officially announced it would be leaving the Big 12, Perlman said he didn't believe Nebraska owed the conference any financial restitution.

Colorado, which also is leaving the Big 12, will have \$6.863 million withheld from its last two years' worth of revenue from the conference. Perlman said Colorado's fee is less because the revenue it receives from the conference is less than what Nebraska receives.

Originally, Colorado was to remain in the Big 12 for another season. Now, however, it will join the Pac-10 on July 1, 2011, the same day Nebraska becomes a member of the Big Ten.

"This agreement was accomplished through a collegial, respectful process among the conference, its institutions, and the University of Nebraska that led to a resolution that all parties believe is fair," Big 12 Commissioner Dan Beebe said. "I appreciate the cooperation of Chancellor Harvey Perlman and Nebraska staff. The Big 12 has enjoyed its relationship with Nebraska and wishes it well in the future."

Beebe's statement regarding the Colorado settlement was identical.

HI'S TOP 5

CLOSE, IF NOT ALREADY THERE



By the time you read this, Taylor Martinez could be on this list of the top five freshman rushers in Cornhusker history. Going into the South Dakota State game, the redshirted freshman quarterback had rushed for 421 yards (10.5) and eight touchdowns. All of those listed were I-backs and all except Calvin Jones were true freshmen. Bowl game statistics weren't included until 2002.

- 1 AHMAN GREEN**, (1995) 141-1,086 yards (7.70), 13 TDs – Six starts, after Lawrence Phillips was suspended and Damon Benning and Clinton Childs had starts.
- 2 CALVIN JONES** (1991) 108-900 (8.33), 14 TDs – Derek Brown's back-up, first freshman to lead Big Eight in scoring.
- 3 DEANGELO EVANS** (1996) 148-776 (5.24), 14 TDs – Back-up to Ahman Green, hampered by pelvic injury, only start against Texas in first Big 12 championship game.
- 4 DAVID HORNE** (2002) 127-651 (5.13), 7 TDs – Redshirt pulled before sixth game, back-up to Dahrran Diedrick.
- 5 MONTE ANTHONY** (1974) 109-587 (5.39), 7 TDs – Starting opportunity came when John O'Leary was injured in second game.

PELINI'S PUPILS



Bo Pelini's coaching resume includes some recognizable NFL names, including most recently, of course, Ndamukong Suh. Among others Pelini has coached, either in college or the NFL, are: Deion Sanders, CB (49ers); Merton Hanks, CB (49ers); Ted Johnson, LB (Patriots); Ted Bruschi, LB (Patriots); Nai'l Diggs, LB (Packers); Demorrio Williams, LB (Nebraska); Josh Bullocks, FS (Nebraska); Barrett Ruud, LB (Nebraska); Glenn Dorsey, DT (LSU); Craig Steltz, S (LSU); LaRon Landry, S (LSU).



BARRETT RUUD

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BEST PREPS



High school football in Texas or Florida, which is the best?

"That's an argument that I left alone a long time ago because

nobody ever wins the argument, you know," said sophomore linebacker Alonzo Whaley, who's from Madisonville, Texas. "Texas people always say Texas has the best athletes.

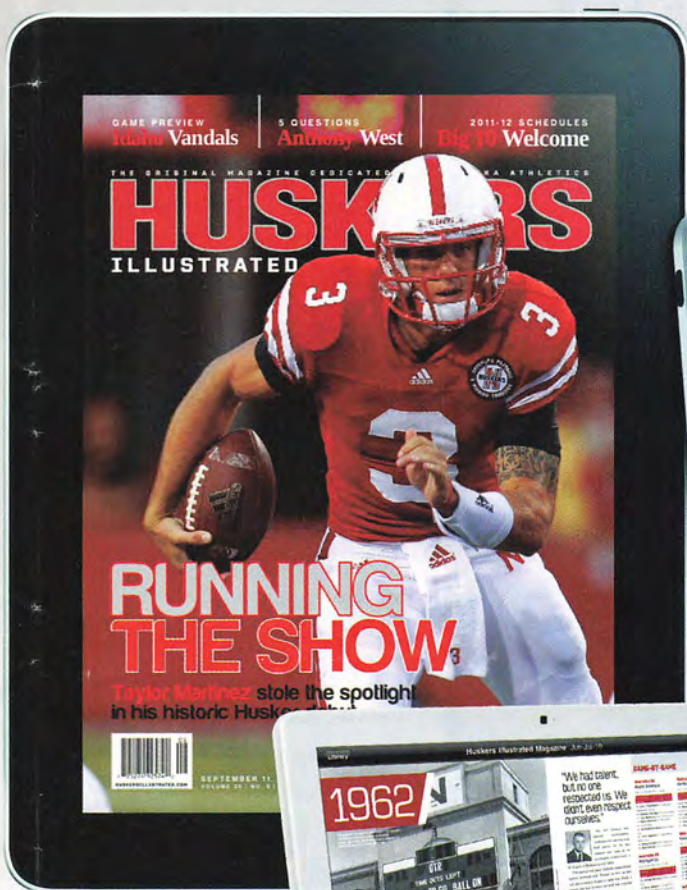
"It's an argument that'll never die. I had it my freshman year. Everybody does. I mean, 'We are the best athletes.' 'No, we are the best athletes.' So you step away from it."

If numbers were the deciding factor, Texas would win the argument. Nebraska's roster lists 26 from Texas and only five from Florida. California? It has produced 13 current Cornhuskers.

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Ouch, that hurt

ESPN.com recently ranked the 50 most-painful outcomes in college football history and Nebraska was a participant in seven of the games, three of them as the loser.

NO. 7 – The Huskers' 31-30 loss to Miami in the 1984 Orange Bowl.

NO. 11 – Nebraska's 35-31 victory against Oklahoma in the 1971 Game of the Century.

NO. 17 – The 18-16 loss against Florida State in the 1994 Orange Bowl.

NO. 19 – The 45-38 overtime victory at Missouri in 1997, specifically because of the Scott Frost touchdown pass to Matt Davison by way of Shevin Wiggins' foot.

NO. 32 – Oklahoma's 17-7 victory in

the Game of the Century II at Memorial Stadium.

NO. 43 – Nebraska's 17-14 upset of the No. 1-ranked Sooners in 1978.

NO. 50 – The 2010 Big 12 Championship game. Nothing more need be said about that.

First on the list was the 1969 Texas-Arkansas game in Fayetteville, Ark., won by the No. 1-ranked Longhorns 15-14. Arkansas was ranked No. 2 and led 14-0 going into the fourth quarter, only to be burned by a 44-yard pass to the Razorbacks' 13-yard line, on fourth-and-3 with less than 5 minutes remaining, to set up the winning touchdown and two-point conversion.

On the road again: Junior defensive tackle Jared Crick doesn't mind playing on the road. In fact, "I think we play a lot better (defensively) because we have the mindset that it's us against everybody. It just brings us that much closer together, and we're working that much more as a unit," he said.

"We love road games. I love games personally."



SIDELINES



SUH'S SUPPORT

Ndamukong Suh picked up the tab on 160 Apple iPads for the Cornhusker locker room, allowing communication between players, coaches and support personnel, including academic counselors. Because of Suh's generosity, the locker room also has a new 14½-foot by 9-foot polar tank.



SYSTEM REBOOT

Senior wide receiver Niles Paul isn't averse to talking a little trash, even in practice. That was especially true during fall camp when there were frequent tussles. "When things get tiring at practice, and I hate to say it, but it's a way to reboot everybody," said Paul. "Everybody gets excited like, 'Oh yeh, let's go.' So I guess it's a way to reboot the whole offense and defense."

It also shows "the defense has each other's back and the offense has each other's back, which is great. But once we leave the field, it's all squashed."

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PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

Heart of a running back

DeJon Gomes played offense as well as defense at Logan High School in Union City, Calif. He was a running back and defensive back, cornerback and safety.

He rushed for nearly 1,000 yards and 24 touchdowns as a senior and figured his future was as a ball carrier. That's what he expected to be when he enrolled at San Francisco City College.

"My heart was at running back," Gomes said.

The first week in junior college, however, the team was short of cornerbacks, so he was asked to move to the secondary.

Given his high school experience, "the transition wasn't too hard, so I just made the move," said Gomes, who has been a defensive back ever since.

Even so, he's a running back deep down.

"Definitely," he said.

Gomes showed his running ability in the Idaho game, returning an interception 40 yards for a touchdown. "I just try and get my hands on the ball as much as I can and show what I can do, I guess," he said. "I didn't see anything but the end zone once I got the ball in my hands."

SIDELINES



NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T

Take it from Jared Crick, who has lined up against him in practice: Taylor Martinez can do many things exceptionally well. He run. He can accelerate. And he can pass.

He also "is very good at hiding the ball," said Crick. "So is Rex (Burkhead) and Roy (Helu). They do a great job with the zone read and hiding the ball and making you guess.

"Taylor is especially good at it. You've seen it in games where he tricks people out and takes off. They're very good at it and practice it every day. That is a tool they have that can help them out."



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Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sat, Sept. 4	Western Kentucky	Memorial Stadium	6:00 pm
Sat, Sept. 11	Idaho	Memorial Stadium	11:30 am
Sat, Sept. 18	at Washington	Husky Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Sept. 25	South Dakota State	Memorial Stadium	6:00 pm
Thur, Oct. 7	at Kansas State	Snyder Stadium	6:30 pm
Sat, Oct. 16	Texas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 23	at Oklahoma State	Pickens Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 30	Missouri	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 6	at Iowa State	Trice Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 13	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 20	at Texas A&M	Kyle Field	TBA
Fri, Nov. 26	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	2:30 pm



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TOO MUCH ADO ABOUT SOMETHING

Defensive coordinator Carl Pelini doesn't make a big deal out of playing on the road. Too much talk about that and "it'll become a big deal in your mind," he said before the Cornhuskers went on the road for the first time this season. "I guess you find a little bit about their poise and whatnot, but I like our team on the road. In the last couple of years, it's kind of taken on an us-against-the-world mentality. It's brought us closer. It's improved the chemistry of our team."



Nebraska again will have to deal with a hostile crowd when it travels to Manhattan, Kan., to open Big 12 play against Kansas State. But the crowd noise there won't be any worse than it was at Washington's Husky Stadium. Even if it were, however, it wouldn't pose a problem for the defense.

"Actually, the issues you have defensively are more at home," coach

Bo Pelini said. "You don't have any communication issues on the road. That's easy. It's like a picnic for the guys on defense on the road because it's quiet when we're out there. Now, when the place is all cranked up and when our defense is out there at home, that's when we have our communication issues."

At home "it flip-flops offense to defense," he said.

GOOD PLAYERS MAKE GOOD COACHES

Eric Hagg was named the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week following the Cornhuskers' 56-21 victory at Washington. Hagg intercepted Jake Locker's first pass to set the tone.

Hagg's athleticism is such that Nebraska changed its defensive scheme to keep him on the field. "When you say an athlete, a lot of people use it in loose terms," said secondary coach Marvin Sanders. "But I see an athlete as a guy who can do multiple things for you, and it was a guy we needed to be able to be big enough to handle the



run but also agile enough to be able to cover a wide receiver.

"He gave us that position."

The decision to change wasn't difficult, according to Sanders.

"The players are what make the coaches, not the other way around," he said. "So you get a few Eric Hagg, you're going to be in good shape as a coach for a long time. On

defense, you try to get your best 11 out there, regardless of position, and so, no question, he's one of the best 11 athletes we have."

And he's becoming more comfortable with his hybrid role in the "peso" defense.

"I'm not saying he wasn't comfortable last year, but I think he's become a very versatile player for us," defensive coordinator Carl Pelini said. "He understands both his linebacker responsibilities and his nickel responsibilities very well. Every day he's out there the experience is invaluable for him."

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N

Tecumseh



MATT DAVISON arrived at Nebraska in mid-May to begin preparing for his freshman year. Less than four months later, he was playing against Akron. He was the Cornhuskers' leading receiver that opening game of 1997, in fact, catching three passes for 64 yards in the

59-14 victory.

From the start, Davison was able to make his hometown proud. "You feel just a responsibility," the color analyst on Husker football and basketball broadcasts said.

It wasn't pressure, however, because he knew "people in Tecumseh would love me no matter how I played," Davison said. "It might have been more of a motivating factor."

In addition to his hometown pride, "the fear of failure has always been motivation for me," he said.

Whatever the motivation, Davison played four seasons without redshirting, finished as the second-leading receiver in school history behind Johnny Rodgers, and made arguably the most memorable catch in Husker history as a freshman, at Missouri, to keep the drive to a national championship in Hall of Fame coach Tom Osborne's final season alive.

Among the many qualities that made Osborne successful was his ability to bring athletes from diverse backgrounds together for a common purpose, according to Davison.

Out-of-state teammates, even from large metropolitan areas, never gave him a hard time about his small-town background. In fact, "I think they probably thought anybody from Nebraska was automatically from a small town," said Davison. "I was always a farm boy."

He was a farm boy who grew up wanting to play for the Cornhuskers, as so many boys in small Nebraska towns do. Oh yes, and he wanted to represent his small town well. "You can take the kid out of Tecumseh," he said. "But you can't take Tecumseh out of the kid."

TECUMSEH, NE

County: Johnson (county seat)

Population: 1,900

Distance from Lincoln: 50 miles

DID YOU KNOW?

► Edson Shaw was team captain in 1917.

► Avarad Mandery caught a short pass and turned it into a 30-yard touchdown in the Huskers' 17-0 victory against Notre Dame at Memorial Stadium in 1925.

► The town's original name was Frances, for the wife of Richard M. Johnson, a colonel in the United States Army in the War of 1812 and vice president of the United States from 1837 to 1841, under Martin Van Buren but was changed to Tecumseh in 1857 by Col. John Bouleware in honor of Chief Tecumseh of the Shawnee Tribe. Johnson claimed to have killed Tecumseh during the Battle of the Thames, near Chatham, Ontario, Canada in the War of 1812.

NU FOOTBALL LETTERMEN

Wayne Blue, HB (1940-41)

Tony Davis, IB-FB (1973-74-75)

Matt Davison, SE (1997-98-99-00)

Raymond Jobes, HB (1918-19)

Avarad Mandery, HB (1924-25-26)

Roy Mandery, E (1924-26)

*Chris Mathis, HB (1930-31-32)

Eldon McClravy, FB (1937)

*Edson Shaw, T (1915-16-17)

Clyde White, G (1934)

[*First-team all-conference]

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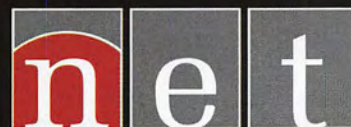
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Northwestern Wildcats

Northwestern has made an incredible climb to success after decades as a doormat | TERRY DOUGLASS



ONCE REGARDED as one of the worst programs in college football, Northwestern has made the climb back to respectability under the guidance of former mentors Gary Barnett and the late Randy Walker, as well as current Wildcats head coach Pat Fitzgerald.

Due largely to indifference from school administration in the 1970s and 1980s, Northwestern was a perennial doormat in the Big Ten Conference, despite having finished with No. 1 national rankings in 1936 and 1962. Northwestern suffered through an NCAA Division I FBS-record 34-game losing streak from 1979-82.

The program took steps forward under Barnett's direction, breaking a 59-year Big Ten title drought with a crown in 1995. Northwestern followed with a conference co-championship in 1996 and the Wildcats have earned seven bowl bids since the 1995 season.

Recent Northwestern history includes a pair of tragic deaths. Defensive back Rashidi Wheeler died during pre-season practice in 2001 and Walker, who succeeded Barnett in 1998, died of an apparent heart attack at the age of 52 in June of 2006.

Walker coached the Wildcats in their 66-17 Alamo Bowl game loss to Nebraska in 2000.

DON'T MISS

Northwestern is located in Evanston, Ill., a Chicago suburb directly north of "The Windy City." Evanston is a 530-mile drive from Lincoln and several non-stop flights are available from Lincoln and Omaha to Chicago.

Fans interested in staying in Chicago can take a train to Northwestern games. The Chicago Transit Authority's Purple Line, which is part of the Chicago "L" train system, runs through Evanston.

The Wildcats play their home games at Ryan Field. The 47,130-seat stadium features a natural grass playing surface.

Evanston is the birthplace of Tinkertoys and also claims the invention of the ice cream sundae. The city has been the location for 65 different films.



HEAD COACH

Resume: The youngest head coach in NCAA Division I FBS when he took over at

Northwestern in 2006 at age 31, Pat Fitzgerald is 27-23 in his four seasons at his alma mater. He guided the Wildcats to bowl games each of the past two seasons.

NAMES TO KNOW

PAT FITZGERALD: Northwestern's current head coach was also a star linebacker at the school, becoming the first two-time winner of both the Bronko Nagurski Trophy and the Chuck Bednarik Award, winning the honors in 1995 and 1996.

DARNELL AUTRY: The running back (pictured middle) helped turn Northwestern's fortunes around, playing a major role on the Wildcats' 1996 co-Big Ten championship squad that competed in the Rose Bowl. Autry finished fourth in the 1996 Heisman Trophy voting.

MIKE ADAMLE: Former co-host of TV's "American Gladiators" and a play-by-play commentator and general manager of World Wrestling Entertainment's "Raw," Adamle was an All-America fullback at Northwestern in 1970. He had a school-record 316 yards rushing against Wisconsin in 1969.

OTTO GRAHAM: The five-time Pro-Bowl quarterback (pictured right) for the Cleveland Browns actually attended Northwestern on a basketball scholarship and was an All-American in 1944. He finished third in the 1943 Heisman Trophy voting, playing mostly at tailback.

GARY BARNETT: Before leaving to become Colorado's head coach in 1998, Barnett (pictured left) led Northwestern to its first Big Ten title since 1936 in 1995. He earned seven different national coach-of-the-year awards for his achievement with the Wildcats that season.



STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Cowboy Stadium Rematch? Count on it.

YOU'D LIKE A rematch of the first trip to Cowboys Stadium, right?

In about eight weeks we'll know who gets to play for the Big 12 championship, but as league play began, Nebraska and Texas had done nothing to change my thinking that they should be the favorites.

What had changed was how I thought the Huskers would go about getting back to Arlington, Texas - and I'm guessing a lot of you are in the same boat.

None of us knew the impact redshirted freshman quarterback Taylor Martinez would have on Nebraska's offense. Heck, we weren't even sure he'd be starting.

All he's done entering the Big 12 opener at Kansas State is help transform a unit that last season reaped the benefits of the nation's hardest-to-score-on defense into one to be feared.

Martinez's speed combined with the razzle-dazzle manner in which he handles the zone-read option means if you misread him, he's probably gone past you. And if you start overcommitting to stop him, he's happy to let running backs Roy Helu, Jr. and Rex Burkhead show off their talents.

Martinez also has proven to be a capable passer, which helps explain why in the first three games Nebraska

produced 22 plays of at least 20 yards.

On top of this, the Huskers' defense has continued to be a stout group even without Ndamukong Suh and two injured players who figured to be the starting linebackers.

This has occurred in large part because of the secondary players' ability to challenge receivers.

"This is the top pass defense in America," Huskies coach Steve Sarkisian said after watching Nebraska dominate his quarterback, Jake Locker. "They're playing with DBs all over the field. They made plays on the ball that I haven't seen in a while. Their safeties are making plays on the ball, and it was hard to get open."

That should play in the Huskers' favor when they see a spread offense such as the one at Missouri, the team generally considered to be their top challenger in the North Division. The Tigers, though, have looked unpolished and needed a last-minute score to avoid a home loss to San Diego State.

So maybe Kansas State is the top roadblock? Uh, but didn't the Wildcats have to score late in the fourth quarter to win their league opener against Iowa State? They do have a special running back in Daniel Thomas and a solid defense. But the guess here is they'll need better production elsewhere in

order to unseat the Huskers.

Meanwhile, those Longhorns are learning what life was like for Nebraska in 2009. That still doesn't mean they can't win another championship, but Mack Brown has got way more offensive concerns than usual.

For the first time since 1994, Texas failed to score 35 points in any of the first three games. The downhill running game Brown promised to lean on as he broke in quarterback Garrett Gilbert has been an inconsistent work in progress.

The 'Horns did slug their way past Texas Tech 24-14 in their conference opener, but they managed just 93 rushing yards on 43 attempts. Gilbert also threw three interceptions.

On the flip side, Brown feels great about a defense that has elite, ball-hawking players in the back seven, and has fared well against the run, playing with new tackles. We'll know a lot more when they face Oklahoma's DeMarco Murray and then Nebraska.

What about those Sooners, you ask? Can't count them out, but two of their first three contests produced close calls with Utah State and Air Force, and last year in the regular season they went 0-5 playing outside Norman.

One more reason I see a rematch coming in Cowboys Stadium. **N**

{ 30 Years of Top Photography and Expert Analysis. }

MOORE CONFIDENCE

After taking a third hard hit that day, **Blake Lawrence** thought "You go tell the trainers today's your **last day of practice**, today's your **last day of football**. Today's the last day your wear pads, you wear a helmet. Today's the last day you do anything."

by Brian Rosenthal

Blake Lawrence

After taking a third hard hit that day, **Blake Lawrence** thought "You go tell the trainers today's your last day of practice, today's your last day of football. Today's the last day your wear pads, you wear a helmet. Today's the last day you do anything."



"Monday wasn't going to be the end of these things."
Lawrence found out that he had a concussion. He was worried about his future in football. He was worried about his future in football. He was worried about his future in football.

NILES TO

RECEIVER PAUL GROWS INTO LEADERSHIP ROLE | BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

BLACKSHIRT BREAKDOWN
CRICK Takes Over

OFFENSE ANALYSIS
Who's the QB?

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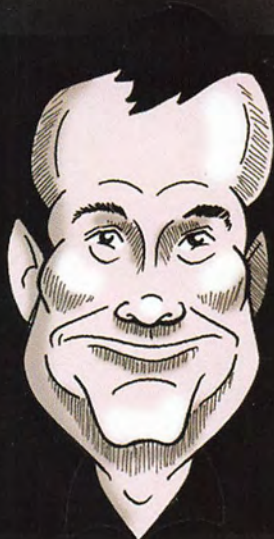
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MORENO VALLEY, CALIF.

FIVE QUESTIONS

Eric Martin

Linebacker & T-Magic's Roommate Answers Five

WHAT'S IT LIKE LIVING WITH THE STAR QUARTERBACK?

Nebraska coaches paired Eric Martin and Taylor Martinez as roommates because they're both from California – Martin from Moreno Valley, Martinez from Corona – and were in the same recruiting class.

But the only thing Martin knew about Martinez was what he'd read in the newspapers.

"Just by reputation," Martin said. "That's how we knew each other."

The living arrangement has something of an "Odd Couple" feel. Martin is an outspoken linebacker who isn't afraid to voice his dislike of quarterbacks.

Martinez, of course, is the team's starting quarterback, plays with a quiet confidence and keeps to himself.

Martin described their relationship as simple. "Nothing too hard-core," he said.

Truth be told, they don't see much of each other around their off-campus house.

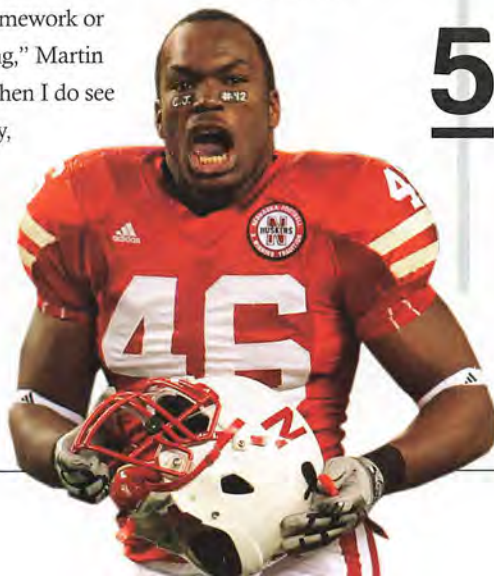
"I'm always here (at the stadium), watching film and stuff, doing homework, and then he'll be at home, locked in his room

doing homework or something," Martin said. "When I do see him, I say, 'Hey, what's up,' and we talk about how much

he stunk and how much I don't like quarterbacks and all that."

Martin said he sees no reason to find a different roommate, so look for the dynamic duo to stay together over the next couple of seasons.

"Most likely. If he don't make me mad," Martin said. "I wouldn't mind being roommates with a quarterback. I mean, it's kind of weird, but oh well."



1

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED How did you get your nickname of Caveman?

ERIC MARTIN My coach used to call me "Caveman" in high school, because you know how you give a Caveman a rock or something and they go crazy because they have something new? That's kind of how I was. That's how I've always been, very appreciative of everything I get.

2

HI What's your favorite sport outside of football?

MARTIN My dad, he was a baseball player growing up, but I've never liked baseball. I can't say I like baseball, so I guess the only sport I could say I like is basketball. But I don't even watch basketball. I don't watch a lot of sports other than football.

3

HI If you were the No. 2 draft pick like Ndamukong Suh, what would you give to the university?

MARTIN Of course I'd give back, if I had that much money. Whatever is needed. Replace stuff. Repairs. Anything that's needed, I'll try to provide for.

4

HI If you had a friend from California coming to visit Lincoln for the first time, where's the first place you would take him?

MARTIN I don't know, to me, Lincoln doesn't have any place fun. The stadium would probably be the nicest thing to take him to.

5

HI If HBO did a Hard Knocks series on Nebraska, which teammate or coach would get the most air time?

MARTIN Probably **TERRENCE MOORE**, because he's one of the funniest dudes on our team. He's good at making people laugh.





by Terry Douglass

TURNING POINT



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

Backs against the wall

IN A CONTEST THAT surprisingly saw Nebraska need some key defensive stops to beat South Dakota State 17-3, two particular plays by Cornhusker defenders stood out.

The first came early on as linebacker Alonzo Whaley tackled Jackrabbits' running back Kyle Minett for a 1-yard loss on a fourth-and-goal play from the Huskers' 1-yard line with 5:37 left in the first quarter. The second was Alfonzo Dennard's soaring interception at the Nebraska 1, which allowed NU to maintain a two-score advantage with 9:46 to play.

Nebraska cornerback Prince Amukamara said both plays were examples of what head coach Bo Pelini and defensive coordinator Carl Pelini expect from the defense — especially from a unit that was presented with Blackshirts two days earlier.

"It starts at practice," Amukamara said.

"Whenever our backs are against the wall and we know we have to answer and make a play, as a defense, we just do it."

With South Dakota State (0-3) threatening to put a major scare into Nebraska (4-0), Dennard's interception on a deep pass over the middle gave the Huskers a much-needed lift. A 33-yard pass from

Thomas O'Brien to Tyrel Kool against Dennard helped put SDSU in prime scoring position.

"Alfonzo Dennard made a really great play and you have to give him credit," Nebraska secondary coach Marvin Sanders said. "The thing was, he was just coming back from getting beat and he made up for it. That's what I was proud of was to see him bounce back."

Nebraska's first-quarter goal-line stand negated a lost a fumble by quarterback Taylor Martinez on the Huskers' first play from scrimmage, giving the Jackrabbits possession at the NU 24. South Dakota State drove to the Nebraska 1, but came away empty thanks to Whaley's clutch tackle, which was assisted by safety Rickey Thenarse.

"(Whaley) made a real athletic play," Nebraska linebacker Lavonte David said. "He got chopped and still made the tackle."

At the time, Whaley said he never imagined his fourth-down tackle would be so critical.

"I never really thought that it would make a difference," Whaley said. "When you step out, you have to play for your team and that's what I was trying to do." **N**

by Terry Douglass

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

LESS THAN MAGICAL

After gaining national attention for an impressive performance in a victory the previous week at Washington, Nebraska quarterback Taylor Martinez was brought back to earth during a 17-3 victory over South Dakota State.

Following three consecutive 100-yard rushing outings, Martinez showed his youth at times against the Football Championship Subdivision Jackrabbits. The redshirt freshman threw two interceptions, lost a fumble and was just 6-of-14 passing for 140 yards.

"He's looking for big plays and you've just got to let the game come to you," Nebraska offensive coordinator Shawn Watson said of Martinez. "The thing that he's got to take out of this is the experience of dealing with

adversity. This is part of his position, so he's going to have to learn to deal with adversity and put it behind him."

Martinez did rush 13 times for 75 yards, but one of his mental lapses came following a 33-yard run near the end of the first quarter. After being driven out of bounds, Martinez was penalized 15 yards for taunting a SDSU defender.

"At some times, I tried too hard to try and make the offense get a play," Martinez said. "I tried my best and, obviously, it didn't work very well."

A REAL EYE-OPENER

If there was a positive aspect of Nebraska's win over South Dakota State, Huskers' redshirt freshman tackle Jeremiah Sirles said it might be that the closer-than-expected contest will help

refocus a NU squad that's off to its first 4-0 start since 2005.

"It's an eye-opener," Sirles said. "We think we're pretty good ... and then something like this happens. I think it's gut-check time. We have the bye week to really check in, see what's going on and get back and get ready for Kansas State."

Nebraska sophomore I-back Rex Burkhead was impressed with SDSU's performance.

"They just outplayed us, hands down," Burkhead said. "They came to play, we didn't. They came in ready to go and we just didn't execute. That's what it came down to."

TACKLING MACHINE

Nebraska linebacker Lavonte David



PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

Nebraska defensive coordinator Carl Pelini refused to classify anything about his team's defensive performance as "disappointing" in the unit's first game since receiving the tradition-rich Blackshirt practice jerseys last Thursday.

Pelini said he was pleased with how the Huskers performed in

"sudden-change" situations after turnovers and the fact that the Blackshirts had two takeaways of their own.

Overall, Nebraska allowed 236 total yards on 65 snaps.

"I'm not going to sit here and tell you I'm disappointed about being 4-0," Pelini said.

"A win is a win. I've been coaching too long to beat myself up after a win. We'll get everything fixed."

Twelve Nebraska defenders were awarded Blackshirts. They included defensive linemen Jared Crick, Cameron Meredith, Baker Steinkuhler and Pierre Allen; linebackers LaVonte David and Eric Martin; and Prince Amukamara, Alfonso Dennard, DeJon Gomes, P.J. Smith, Eric Hagg and Rickey Thenarse in the secondary.

recorded 19 tackles against South Dakota State, including 11 in the first half. That total topped his previous high of 13 tackles in the opener against Western Kentucky.

"I don't even believe that stat right now," David said. "It doesn't feel like it. Everybody was flying to the ball, but I don't feel like I had 19 tackles."

David's 19 tackles were the most by a Nebraska player since linebacker Barrett Ruud had 19 stops at Kansas State in 2004. However, Nebraska coach Bo Pelini didn't gush over David's performance.

"Lavonte David might have had 19 tackles, (but) he has a lot to fix," Pelini said. "It goes well beyond statistics."



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



REACHING PAYDIRT

► Nebraska sophomore tight end Kyle Reed had a 33-yard touchdown reception in the second quarter. The catch was the longest of Reed's career and marked his first for a score.

Husker quarterback Taylor Martinez scrambled to his right to buy some extra time before finding a wide-open Reed for the score.

"I was almost on my way back to come back and block for (Martinez)," Reed said. "I think (South Dakota State) was very conscious of the run. There were a couple of times when I was running down the field pretty open just because their safeties were flying up the field, trying to stop the run.

"Those are the ones where you really have to concentrate and make sure you look that ball in because it was floating up there for a while."

WORTH NOTING

► Nebraska place-kicker Alex Henery scored five points against South Dakota State on two point-after conversions and a 30-yard field goal. The senior increased his career scoring total to 317 points, moving him into third place on the program's career scoring list, breaking a tie with Mike Rozier at 312 points and passed Josh Brown, who scored 315 career points.

► The Huskers have won 10 of their past 11 games overall, marking their best stretch since winning 13 straight games between the 2000 and 2001 seasons.



LAVONTE DAVID DELIVERS THE BIGGEST OF HIS 19 TACKLES, WITH A SHOT AGAINST WIDE RECEIVER TYREL KOOL PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 1) Mike McNeill hauls in his 64-yard reception from Taylor Martinez. *Photo by Scott Bruhn* 2) Rex Burkhead celebrates with Jeremiah Sirles after scoring a touchdown. *Photo by Aaron Babcock* 3) Rex Burkhead tries to find room to run. *Photo by Aaron Babcock* 4) Jared Crick makes one of his four tackles on the day. *Photo by Scott Bruhn*

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

JIM EBKE

The football lives of those who are exclusively special-teams players can be fairly anonymous. But not for the Huskers' Jim Ebke with South Dakota State in town. The junior linebacker, who began his college career on scholarship at South Dakota State before transferring, was a co-captain for the game. Coach Bo Pelini told him of the honor about 2 hours before kickoff. "It was a dream come true," said Ebke, who saw action as he always does, on the kickoff, punt return and kickoff return teams. "It was really exciting, and I'm very appreciative of Coach for putting me on (as captain)."

"I had no idea. It was completely surprising, and it really felt good."

Ebke, the Nebraska Gatorade Player of the Year as a quarterback at Lincoln East High School, redshirted and played linebacker and safety on the scout team, his one season at South Dakota State, then had to sit out another season at Nebraska under NCAA transfer rules.

RUSHING

Nebraska went into the game averaging 344 yards rushing per game and managed only 205. The Huskers did average 4.3 yards per carry, however, a positive.

C

PASSING

Completing 6-of-16 passes with two interceptions offsets the 23.3-yards-per-completion average and one touchdown. Plus, 97 of Nebraska's 140 passing yards came on two plays.

F

RUSHING DEFENSE

Kyle Minett did rush for 112 yards on 28 carries, but the Blackshirts also stopped him twice from the 1-yard line, for no gain and a loss of 1.

C

PASSING DEFENSE

The secondary came up with two more interceptions, but Jackrabbits quarterback Thomas O'Brien was never sacked.

A

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS

Alex Henery was his usual reliable self, averaging 47.3 yards on six punts and nailing a 30-yard field goal (his second of the season), but punt returns left much to be desired. One was muffed and another fumbled, though not lost.

C+

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

NEBRASKA vs. KANSAS STATE

OCTOBER 7, 2010
HUSKERS MANAGE TO AVOID WILDCAT AMBUSH WHEN THEY VISIT MANHATTAN FOR A RARE THURSDAY NIGHT FACEOFF!

Husker Report Card

QUICK PICKS



Aaron Babcock
(Season, Last Week)
(24-8, 6-2)



Mike Babcock
(27-5, 8-0)



Terry Douglass
(29-3, 8-0)



Kevin Kugler
(27-5, 6-2)



Sean Callahan
(25-7, 6-2)



Matt Davison
(28-4, 8-0)

Nebraska at Kansas State	NU 21-10	NU 28-10	NU 17-7	NU 28-14	NU 30-17	NU 35-10
Texas A&M at Oklahoma State	OSU 33-28	OSU 35-31	OSU 33-30	A&M 35-31	OSU 41-35	OSU 34-27
Texas Tech at Iowa State	TT 41-24	TT 28-13	TT 41-17	TT 38-17	TT 31-13	TT 37-17
Kansas at Baylor	BU 20-17	BU 21-17	BU 24-13	BU 28-13	BU 27-17	BU 31-13
Texas at Oklahoma	OU 24-10	OU 27-25	OU 27-17	OU 28-21	OU 34-30	OU 17-13
Georgia at Colorado	UGA 35-12	UGA 21-17	UGA 35-13	UGA 14-13	UGA 31-21	UGA 31-20
Penn State at Iowa	PSU 21-20	IOWA 17-14	IOWA 20-14	IOWA 31-24	IOWA 34-30	IOWA 22-13
Florida at Alabama	ALA 35-17	ALA 24-21	ALA 28-14	ALA 24-10	ALA 31-17	ALA 31-21

SUMMARY

SCORING

Sept. 25, 2010
Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance: 85,573

	1	2	3	4	F
S. DAKOTA STATE	0	0	3	0	3
NEBRASKA	0	14	0	3	17

	SDS	NU
Second Quarter		
NU Burkhead, Rex 3 yd run (Henery, Alex kick) - 14:31	0	7
NU Drive: 6 plays 96 yd 3:01		
NU Reed, Kyle 33 yd pass from Martinez, Taylor - 10:46	0	14
NU Drive: 4 plays 54 yd 2:13		
Third Quarter		
SDSU Harris, Kyle 35 yd field goal	3	14
SDSU Drive: 12 plays 73 yd 4:43		
Fourth Quarter		
NU Henery, Alex 30 yd field goal	3	17
NU Drive: 11 plays 52 yd 5:09		

TEAM STATS

	SDSU	NU
Total First Downs	10	15
Rushing	6	9
Passing	4	4
Penalty	0	2
Rushing Attempts	37	48
Yards Gained Rushing	143	227
Yards Lost Rushing	2	22
Net Yards Rushing	141	205
Net Yards Passing	95	140
Passes Attempted	28	16
Passes Completed	12	6
Had Intercepted	2	2
Percent Completion	42.9%	37.5%
Yards per Attempt	3.4	8.8
Yards per Completion	7.9	23.3
Total Offensive Plays	65	64
Total Net Yards	236	345
Avg. Gain Per Play	3.6	5.4
Fumbles: No-Lost	0-0	4-1
Penalties: No-Yards	7-73	6-47
Punts: No-Yards	8-317	6-284
Avg. Per Punt	39.6	47.3
Avg. Net Punt	34.2	37.3
Punt Returns: No-Yards	5-60	3-3
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	2-44	1-15
Interception Returns: No-Yards	2-21	2-0
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	29:49	30:11
Third-Down Conversions	5-17	4-13
Percentage	29.4%	30.8%
Fourth-Down Conversions	0-3	0-0
Percentage	0.0%	0.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	0-0	0-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
Martinez	13	75	0	75	5.8	0	33
Burkhead	14	71	5	66	4.7	1	17
Helu Jr.	19	76	17	59	3.1	0	14
Green	2	5	0	5	2.5	0	3
TOTAL	48	227	22	205	4.3	1	33

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Martinez	14	6	42.9	2	140	1	64
Green	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	16	6	37.5	2	140	1	64

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Kinnie	3	34	0	19
McNeill	1	64	0	64
Reed	1	33	1	33
Burkhead	1	9	0	9
TOTAL	6	140	1	64

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Paul	2	4	0	3
Marlowe	1	-1	0	0
TOTAL	3	3	0	3

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Kinnie	1	15	0	15

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	TB	FC	50+	IN20
Henery	6	284	55	0	0	1	2

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Henery	1	1	30	0

DEFENSE	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SAC	PD	FF	FR
David	6	13	19	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Thenarse	2	8	10	1-0	0-0	1	0	0
Gomes	2	7	9	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Meredith	4	1	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Martin	1	4	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Steinkuler	1	4	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Crick	1	3	4	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Allen	3	0	3	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Smith	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dennard	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Hill	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Whaley	1	1	2	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Hagg	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Martin	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cassidy	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
May	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Reed	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Amukamara	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dean	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Williams	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moore	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Ebke	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

INTERCEPT. RET.	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Smith	1	0	0	0
Dennard	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	2	0	0	0

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
Minett	28	113	1	112	4.0	0	26
Duffy	8	25	1	24	3.0	0	5
Kool	1	5	0	5	5.0	0	5
TOTAL	37	143	2	141	3.8	0	26

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
O'Brien	28	12	42.9	2	95	0	33

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Minett	5	14	0	8
Kool	2	34	0	33
Cochart	2	24	0	19
Hubert	2	15	0	9
Rollin	1	8	0	8
TOTAL	12	95	0	33

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Brodie	5	60	0	19

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Brodie	1	23	0	23
Clare	1	21	0	21
TOTAL	2	44	0	23

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	TB	FC	50+	IN20
Priddy	8	39.6	51	2	0	1	2

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Harris	1	1	35	0

DEFENSE	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SAC	PD	FF	FR
Domino	4	12	16	2-3	0-0	0	0	0
Lien	2	9	11	1-10	0-0	0	0	0
Wise	3	4	7	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Kool	2	5	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Mink	3	3	6	1-2	0-0	0	0	0
Brodie	4	1	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Fischer	1	3	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Bowers	1	3	4	1-2	0-0	0	0	0
Wright	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thompson	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jeske	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jackson	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Steffen	1	0	1	1-5	0-0	0	0	0
Tracy	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
Luxa	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Benedetto	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Feller	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Shafraath	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

INTERCEPT. RET.	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Domino	1	14	0	14
Kool	1	7	0	7
TOTAL	2	21	0	14



Kansas State Wildcats

Daniel Thomas and Wildcat rushing game will provide tough challenge for Huskers | JERRY TRICKIE

KANSAS STATE began 2010 with its first 3-0 start in four seasons. KSU opened with victories over UCLA, Missouri

State and Iowa State by rushing for more than 260 yards per contest behind All-America candidate Daniel Thomas. The

defense—led by LB Alex Hrebec—did just enough in the early wins, but is still looking to assert itself more consistently.



After rushing for 1,165 yards (105.4 ypg) and 11 TDs in 2009, RB Daniel Thomas is back in the spotlight this fall. The 6-foot-2, 228-pound battering ram rushed for 552 yards (184.0 ypg) and six TDs to lead KSU to three consecutive victories to open 2010, including a career-high 34 carries for 181 yards vs. Iowa State.



HEAD COACH

Resume: Snyder returned to the Wildcat sideline in 2009 with hopes of rebuilding

the program for the second time.

Following an up-and-down 6-6 campaign last fall, he guided Kansas State to a solid start in 2010 behind one of the nation's most potent ground attacks.

KNOW YOUR FOE



Alex Hrebec, Jr., LB: A team captain, Hrebec led KSU in total tackles (29) and was second in passes defended (4) through three games.



Brandon Harold, So., DE: A 2008 freshman All-American before battling injury last year, Harold opened

2010 among Wildcat leaders in tackles, TFLs and sacks.



Brodrick Smith, So., WR: Smith posted 179 receiving yards and three TDs to open the fall, includ-

ing a career-long 47-yard reception versus Iowa State.

2010 SCHEDULE

9/4	UCLA, W, 31-22
9/11	Missouri State, W, 48-24
9/18	vs. Iowa State, W, 27-20
9/25	Central Florida, 11:30 a.m.
10/7	Nebraska, 6:30 p.m.
10/14	at Kansas, 6:30 p.m.
10/23	at Baylor
10/30	Oklahoma State
11/6	Texas
11/13	at Missouri
11/20	at Colorado
11/27	North Texas, 3 p.m.

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CATCHING UP WITH

Steve Lindquist

FASTEST HUSKER LINEMAN RECALLS UPSET OF 'BAMA

WHEN STEVE LINDQUIST got his first glimpse of Taylor Martinez, he had one thought.

"Brother, he has speed to burn," Lindquist said of Nebraska's redshirted freshman quarterback. "He's the real deal. He just takes off, and he's gone ... see you later!"

Leave it to the fastest offensive lineman in Nebraska football history to describe blazing speed so succinctly.

Two weekends ago, when Lindquist returned to Lincoln for his official induction into the 2010 Nebraska Football Hall of Fame class, NU Athletic Director Tom Osborne told a sold-out banquet room that Lindquist was the fastest Husker lineman ever.

"Four 55 (04.55), brother," Lindquist replied when asked just how fast someone 6-foot-6 and 250 pounds could run the 40-yard dash in 1978 – the same year that Nebraska upset top-ranked Oklahoma, 17-14. The win paved the way to first-team All-Big Eight and second-team All-America honors for Lindquist, an offensive guard who helped the Huskers lead the nation in total

offense.

Even though Nebraska fans voted that game as their all-time favorite in the NCAA record home sellout streak, Lindquist prefers another game – a 31-24 win over Alabama a year earlier.

"You have to remember that Bear Bryant was already a legend, and we knew we beat a legend that day," Lindquist said. "Barry Switzer wasn't a legend yet, and people forget how great that 1977 Alabama team really was."

'Bama came into the game ranked No. 2 and still managed to finish second in the final polls because the Crimson Tide won their last 10 games. Three weeks after losing to Nebraska, the Tide won at Southern Cal. 'Bama also outscored LSU, Miami, Auburn and Ohio State by a combined 143-30 in their final four games.

"I will never forget that game as long as I live," Lindquist said. "That's when I knew for sure that Coach Osborne would become a legend himself."

A native of Minneapolis suburb Brooklyn Park, Lindquist also never will forget how taken he was with Big Red football. "To me, Nebraska has always been about the people, and it still is," he said. "When I was being recruited, I received 300 letters, including one from the local mortician. There wasn't – and still isn't – any place like Nebraska."

For someone who answers "54, dude" when you ask him his age, that's high praise.

Lindquist and his wife, Cathy, have three children – Abby, 28, who lives in New York City; Amy, 25, who lives in San Francisco; and John, 20, a film major at the University of Colorado-Denver.

The Lindquists live outside Boulder,

"BROTHER, HE HAS SPEED TO BURN," LINDQUIST SAID OF NEBRASKA'S REDSHIRTED FRESHMAN QUARTERBACK. "HE'S THE REAL DEAL. HE JUST TAKES OFF, AND HE'S GONE ... SEE YOU LATER!"

Colo., where Steve works in the same electrical construction management business he's been in since college.

"Don't even ask," he said, anticipating a question. "I still have season tickets at Nebraska, and that will never change."

by Randy York

IN THE Red Zone

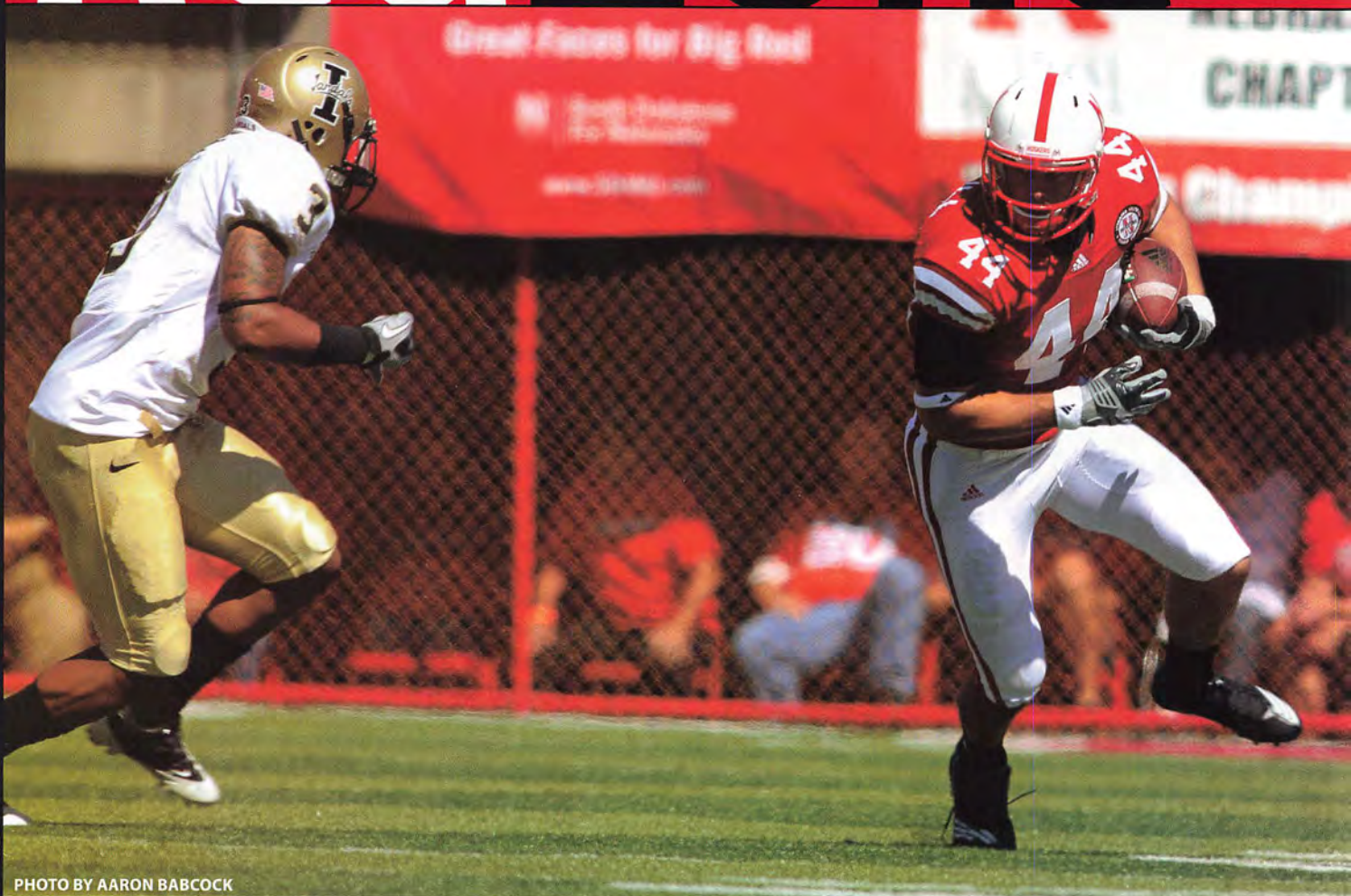


PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

Continuing Education

Classes are a lot more difficult for Mike McNeill this semester. "School's gotten harder for me," he said recently. "I've got to grind a lot more now than I used to."

The senior wide receiver from Kirkwood, Mo., smiled. He's enrolled in three classes, 9 credit hours: coaching basketball, coaching effectiveness and

history of sports.

"Marketing and business classes weren't nearly as hard as these coaching classes," he said.

McNeill was kidding, of course. He's a senior in athletic eligibility but a graduate student in the classroom. He graduated in August, receiving a marketing degree.

So, really, he's not over-burdened by his studies. "They're fun classes," he said. "A lot of people take them for an easy grade. Obviously, I'm taking them for a lighter load. But you definitely learn things out of them, and you get other perspectives that you didn't think of at first."

Plus, "I would definitely like to coach at some point," he said.

To that end, he has already taken a football coaching class.

The coaching effectiveness class offers "a lot of scenarios," said McNeill, and students have to decide how they would handle those situations. What would you do with 5 seconds left? How would you discipline players if this were to happen? Should they even be disciplined?

Recently "we had one (from) the Little League World Series. A kid hadn't batted yet and everyone has to bat or else you have to forfeit the game. The other coach wouldn't tie the game so the kid could bat," McNeill said. "Situations like that, that you learn about."

There aren't right-or-wrong answers to such questions, but most in the class "usually disagree with my answers because I'm all about the winning aspect," said McNeill. In the case of the Little League World Series, "I was like, 'Never give away a free win. If they forfeit, that's their fault.'"

He would coach as he has been coached. Bo Pelini has "been a big influence on all of our lives," McNeill said. "I think sometimes as a coach you don't realize how big of an impact you have."

"But just the way he's changed our team as far as the kind of guys and how we approach everyday life, I definitely would like to have the same impact if I'm a coach."

Andrews blazed trail to graduate early and play

George Andrews was the first graduate student to play football for the Cornhuskers."

The defensive end from Omaha, nicknamed the "Smiling Assassin," was a co-captain and first-team Academic All-American that season, 1978. He also was a first-round NFL draft pick.

Prior to January of 1978, NCAA rules prohibited graduate students from competing in athletics. So fifth-year seniors had to delay graduation and enroll for classes, full-time.

Graduate students are commonplace now. Five current Cornhuskers have completed degrees, and a sixth, offensive lineman Mike Smith has been sidelined for the season by a broken leg, suffered in fall camp. The others are Zac Lee, Mike McNeill, D.J. Jones, Anthony West and Tyrone Fahie.



Texas teammates package deal?

Huskers enter second season of recruiting as targets schedule visits for Lincoln | SEAN STEVENS



CHARLES JACKSON

Cornerback target **CHARLES JACKSON** (5-11, 180) of Klein, Texas, will be making his official visit to Lincoln for the Texas game on Oct. 16. Nebraska, Oklahoma and Arkansas are his top three schools, and he has already visited the Sooners (Sept. 11) and Razorbacks (Sept. 18).

A 4-star prospect and the No. 21-ranked player in Texas according to Rivals.com, Jackson is a high school teammate of Husker linebacker commitment **DAVID SANTOS**. Although they talk about playing together after high school, Santos is not pressuring him.

"Of course he lets me make my own decision, but he still (says) Nebraska is

where it's at," Jackson said.

PESO POSSIBILITIES

With the number of defensive backs Nebraska now employs in its "peso" defense, it's likely that the Huskers will recruit anywhere from four to six defensive backs per class. With three commitments in place and Jackson looking like a possibility, where would the one or two remaining players come from?

Four-star safeties **JEREMY CASH** (6-1, 185) of Plantation, Fla., and **WAYNE LYONS** (6-0, 190) of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., will both visit Lincoln in October, Cash for the Texas game and Lyons for Missouri on Oct. 30.

Cash is committed to Ohio State and will also visit Arizona State but wants to see Nebraska because of the history of the Blackshirts and coach Bo Pelini.

Lyons has already visited Notre Dame and UCLA officially, and Florida is the team to beat. Still, getting a visit for a big conference game should improve Nebraska's chances.

Another target is 4-star cornerback **JONATHAN AIKEN** (5-11, 185) of Hollywood, Fla. Aiken visited Illinois on Sept. 18 and is scheduled to visit Rutgers on Oct. 2. He's considering a December visit to Lincoln with teammate and wide receiver target **CURT EVANS** (6-0, 173).

TIGHT END TARGET

A new target for Nebraska is tight end **DARIEN BRYANT** (6-4, 215) of Pickerington, Ohio. Bryant's mother said "we're going," when Husker coach **RON BROWN** mentioned a visit during a recent phone call, but no date has been set. The door is just opening for Bryant, as Nebraska and Maryland are among the first of what should be many schools to offer him a scholarship.

COMMIT Q&A



ZACH STERUP

At a glance: Hastings (Neb.) St. Cecilia offensive lineman Zach Sterup is the No. 1-ranked player in

Nebraska for the class of 2011. Huskers Illustrated caught up with Sterup in this week's commit spotlight.

CALLAHAN: How hard was it for you to choose football over basketball?

STERUP: It wasn't too hard because I grew up loving basketball but also started to love football last season. I just thought I had a better opportunity in football than basketball, so I was just going to go with that.

CALLAHAN: Of all the recruiting visits you took in the spring, what was your favorite part or thing you saw outside of Nebraska?

STERUP: I really liked Camp Randall Stadium at Wisconsin. Coach (Bret) Bielema's office had a really cool view of the whole stadium and the whole city. The whole campus at Wisconsin was pretty cool, too. I'd probably say that was my best out-of-state visit I had.

CALLAHAN: Who's your favorite professional sports team and why?

STERUP: I like watching the New York Giants just because my dad is a Cowboys fan and they're like their biggest rival in the division. A few years ago I started watching them and I started following them.

CALLAHAN: Playing in Class C-2, do you find it hard to get a challenge for yourself?

STERUP: There's still good players in C-2. Every week I think I have a target on my back. Everybody wants to see and prove themselves against me, so I think I get a lot of people's best shots every game.

CALLAHAN: What are you most excited about when you watch Nebraska's offense right now?

STERUP: They look pretty unstoppable right now. They are running a lot of zone read with Taylor Martinez and I think that will be fun to play that type of offense. We also don't pass block much at St. Cecilia, so I think it will be fun to work on my pass blocking and try to get better at my game, as well.

by Sean Callahan

2011 Husker Commit List

- ★★ AARYN BOUZOS, DB, 5-11, 185, La Mirada, Calif. (La Mirada)
- ★★★ DANIEL DAVIE, DB, 6-0, 181, Beatrice, Neb.
- ★★★★ RYAN KLACHKO, OL, 6-4, 287, Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin)
- ★★★★ TEVIN MITCHEL, DB, 6-0, 175, Mansfield, Texas (Legacy)
- ★★★★ TYLER MOORE, OL, 6-6, 290, Clearwater, Fla. (Countryside)
- ★★★★ RYNE REEVES, OL, 6-3, 300, Crete, Neb. (Crete)
- ★★ NIKLAS SADE, K, 6-3, 190, Raleigh, NC (Wakefield)
- ★★★ DAVID SANTOS, LB, 6-0, 193, Klein, Texas (Klein Collins)
- NR DAIMION STAFFORD, DB, 6-1, 210, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Chaffey CC)
- ★★★★ BUBBA STARLING, QB, 6-4, 193, Gardner, Kan. (Gardner Edgerton)
- ★★★★ ZACH STERUP, OL, 6-8, 260, Hastings, Neb. (St. Cecilia)
- ★★★★ JAMAL TURNER, QB, 6-1, 173, Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)
- ★★★ KEVIN WILLIAMS, DT, 6-2, 275, Holland, Ohio (Springfield)

2011 Unofficial Offer List

James Adeyanju

DE, 6-2, 250
Chicago, Ill.

Jonathan Aiken

CB, 5-11, 185
Hollywood, Fla.

Antoine Arnold

WR, 6-3, 180
Temecula, Calif.

Jeremy Cash

S, 6-1, 185
Plantation, Fla.

Curt Evans

WR, 6-0, 173
Hollywood, Fla.

Christian French

Athlete, 6-6, 218
Cedar Rapids, IA

Aaron Green

RB, 5-10, 191
San Antonio, TX

Quentin Griffin

DE, 6-3, 230
Rayville, La.

Jalen Grimbale

DE, 6-4, 255
Las Vegas, Nev.

Jesse Hayes

DE, 6-4, 230
Cincinnati, Ohio

Christian Heyward

DT, 6-2, 269
San Diego, Calif.

Cyrus Hobbi

OL, 6-4, 285
Scottsdale, Ariz.

Charles Jackson

CB, 5-11, 180
Klein, Texas

Mickey Johnson

DT, 6-1, 310
Covington, La.

Lake Koa-Kaia

DE, 6-4, 250
Honolulu, Hawaii

Keith Lewis

LB, 6-0, 194
Lakeland, Fla.

Wayne Lyons

Safety, 6-0, 190
Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

*Dexter Moody

LB, 6-2, 210
Fort Scott (Kan.) CC

*Malcolm Moulton

WR, 5-11, 185
Fort Scott (Kan.) CC

Patrick Onwuasor

WR, 6-2, 190
Inglewood, Calif.

Todd Peat, Jr.

DT, 6-3, 300
Tempe, Ariz.

Givens Mordi Price

OL, 6-4, 278
Houston, Texas

Miles Shuler

WR, 5-11, 173
Long Branch, NJ

Joel Willis

Athlete, 5-10, 180
Garden Grove, CA

DeVante Wilson

DE, 6-4, 230
Corona, Calif.

* Junior College prospect

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DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Mid-season grades on Husker recruiting class

THE HUSKERS have 13 commits for the 2010 class and recruiting coordinator Ted Gilmore has said this class will likely finish in the “20-to-22 range” of total commits.

Before the season, there was just 19 projected scholarship players set to exhaust their eligibility after this season. Regardless, I’ll let the recruiting coordinator set my parameters for my projection and we’ll say there are between seven and nine spots left in this class.

Everybody wants to know, what are the needs and how are they going to fill them? I’ll do my best to predict the future.

On offense, the Huskers have done an excellent job in recruiting. Two 4-star quarterbacks, and four 4-star offensive linemen are what jump out. You’ve got one athlete on the commitment list who could play receiver in Daniel Davie, even though as he says, the offensive and defensive coaches are already fighting about which side of the ball he’ll play on.

So let’s start on that side of the ball.

Running back has probably been the most talked about position in this class since it was clear 2010 running back signee Braylon Heard was not going to be in Lincoln this fall. Though Heard will likely get his academic situation

squared away to be on campus in January, all eyes are squarely on Aaron Green, the top target. The rumors and buzz surrounding Green have been that the Huskers have the edge.

However, Green says he remains open. Nebraska will have its big shot and will give Green the red-carpet treatment along with a host of other top prospects for the big-game weekend when the Huskers host Texas.

How about wide receiver? Yep, that’s a need, but the late addition of Stanley Jean-Baptiste certainly helped aid the depth in that department. The Huskers still could take two wide receivers in this class and still not feel like they took an unnecessary amount.

It also appears with 2010 signee Chase Harper not making it out of Navarro College, a tight end has become a priority again. Recently the Huskers went to Ohio to offer Darien Bryant, who appears to be working on a visit date for Lincoln.

Overall, you have to give the Husker staff an A on offensive recruiting thus far.

Defensively, the picture is probably a little less clear.

One defensive tackle, one linebacker, and if you take out Davie as a possible defensive back, Nebraska has at least three prospects committed who project somewhere in the secondary.

Defensive tackle Kevin Williams is only ranked 3-stars, but in the first few weeks of the season his stats have been gaudy. That’s a good foundation with so many other top defensive tackle and defensive end prospects set to visit in October.

The secondary is impressive thus far as well. Two 4-star commits in Tevin Mitchel and Daimion Stafford lead the way, but the sleeper of the class could be hard-hitting DB Aaryn Bouzos.

As to which spots are left to fill on this side of the ball, you can figure the Huskers will add it at least three more defensive linemen – one more defensive tackle and a pair of defensive ends.

At linebacker, the main targets seem clear with all the buzz being about Florida hybrid prospect Keith Lewis seemingly getting the staff’s full attention. At least one if not two more linebackers will probably round out this group.

And in the secondary, I expect one to two more prospects to fill out this class including likely a do-it-all prospect who could fit in anywhere.

If you’re a recruiting fan, October is when the fireworks will start going off, with huge visit weekends shaping up and momentum the program hasn’t seen on the recruiting trail and on the field in years. **N**

Mancuso's versatility gives Cook options

Sophomore Gina Mancuso relishes her role to help team win, on or off the bench. | BOB HAMAR



GINA MANCUSO

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

GINA MANCUSO IS NEVER QUITE SURE WHAT'S IN STORE FOR HER EACH GAME-DAY.

The Nebraska sophomore outside hitter might start for the Huskers, she might come off the bench or she might not play at all. Mancuso never knows how coach John Cook will decide to use her.

"You just have to be ready and adjust to the situations," Mancuso said.

"That's why our team is so great. I think anybody can come in and do a great job at any given time."

Cook is still looking for the perfect combination at outside hitter. Mancuso, senior Tara Mueller and sophomore Hannah Werth have all played well at times and not so well at others.

"She's in the hunt to be a starter," Cook said of Mancuso. "She had a really good pre-season but then didn't do so well in the Red-White and didn't do so well in the (AVCA) Showcase, but the times I've put her in, she's doing well. That's been the thing we've been asking from Gina is to be really good every day in practice and in the matches. She's starting to figure that out."

Mancuso, whose older sister Dani played on Nebraska's 2006 national championship team, said it's not hard to keep her ego in check.

"Our No. 1 goal is to win the national championship and we know that," Mancuso said. "Knowing that goal, I don't think playing time or being disappointed or being on the bench, none of that is going to get in the way this year."

Mancuso has started several matches for the Huskers this season, including one match at the BYU Tournament, against Creighton and again against Western Michigan. Mancuso also came off the bench to get six kills and hit .333 to help the Huskers come back from a 2-0 deficit to beat Illinois.

"That was a blessing," Mancuso said of the



COOK STIRS THINGS UP

Sophomore setter Lauren Cook gets excited when the Huskers make a big play.

"I'm crazy and I love being crazy," she said. "I have so much energy. When somebody gets a big block or a big kill, I just get so excited because it's so awesome to see how great other people are doing."

Her coach and father doesn't seem to enjoy Lauren's demonstrations nearly as much as some.

"Sometimes I think it's a little obnoxious," John said. "She loves it. The team loves it. Her big thing is she wants to bring energy to this team. She established that on the China trip. I think that's one of the ways she does that."

LEFT SIDE WOES

The hitting percentage for Nebraska's left side hitters haven't been impressive this season. Gina Mancuso is at .202 while Tara Mueller is at .203 and Hannah Werth .253.

John Cook would like to see those numbers improve, but he said there are reasons for those lower percentages. For one thing, the 6-2 offense the Huskers are running this year is built around the right side and middle hitters.

That means the left side hitters, even more than in the 5-1 offense, are often getting sets when the Huskers are out of system.

"They have to learn to manage that better," Cook said. "They like to swing away. They're in situations where you can't always swing away, so when they do swing away they get blocked or make an error and that brings their percentage down."

2010 Schedule

RUNZA/AVCA SHOWCASE

SAT, AUG 28	KENTUCKY	QWEST CENTER OMAHA	W, 3-0
SUN, AUG 29	FLORIDA	QWEST CENTER OMAHA	L, 2-3
TUE, AUG 31	CREIGHTON	OMAHA, NEB.	W, 3-0

BYU TOURNAMENT

FRI, SEP 03	BYU	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-1
SAT, SEP 04	CAL POLY	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 04	IDAHO STATE	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-0

AMERITAS PLAYERS CHALLENGE

THU, SEP 09	DAYTON	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-1
FRI, SEP 10	W. MICHIGAN	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 11	ILLINOIS	DEVANEY	W, 3-2

BIG 12 CONFERENCE PLAY

WED, SEP 15	IOWA STATE *	AMES, IOWA	W, 3-1
SAT, SEP 18	COLORADO *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
WED, SEP 22	KANSAS *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 25	BAYLOR *	WACO, TEXAS	7 P.M.
WED, SEP 29	OKLAHOMA *	NORMAN, OKLA.	7 P.M.
SAT, OCT 02	TEXAS *	NU COLISEUM	3:30 P.M.
WED, OCT 06	MISSOURI *	COLUMBIA, MO.	7 P.M.
SAT, OCT 09	TEXAS A&M *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, OCT 16	KANSAS STATE * MANHATTAN, KAN.		7 P.M.
WED, OCT 20	TEXAS TECH *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, OCT 23	MISSOURI *	NU COLISEUM	TBA
WED, OCT 27	TEXAS *	AUSTIN, TEXAS	8 P.M.
SAT, OCT 30	IOWA STATE *	NU COLISEUM	TBA
WED, NOV 03	KANSAS *	LAWRENCE, KAN.	6:30 P.M.
SAT, NOV 06	TEXAS TECH *	LUBBOCK, TEXAS	6:30 P.M.
WED, NOV 10	KANSAS STATE *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, NOV 13	COLORADO *	BOULDER, COLO.	TBA
WED, NOV 17	OKLAHOMA *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
WED, NOV 24	BAYLOR *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, NOV 27	TEXAS A&M *	COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS	TBA

NCAA TOURNAMENT

FRI, DEC 3-4	NCAA FIRST AND SECOND ROUNDS		TBA
FRI, DEC 10-11	NCAA REGIONALS	TBA	TBA
THU, DEC 16	NCAA SEMIFINALS	KANSAS CITY, MO.	TBA
SAT, DEC 18	NATIONAL TITLE	KANSAS CITY, MO.	TBA

* BIG 12 CONFERENCE GAME



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

Illinois match, played at the Devaney Center. "That was a great experience. I loved every moment of it. The team just took that and we played so well together. I'm glad I had the opportunity."

Mancuso credited teammates such as libero Kayla Banwarth and setters Sydney Anderson and Lauren Cook for any success she had against Illinois.

"It was great showing I could do that and that I'm ready to come off the bench whenever they need me," she said.

"Again, I couldn't make those plays without Kayla digging the ball and Sydney or Lauren setting. I really have to credit my team because I can't do it on my own.

Mancuso said the Illinois match was just what the Huskers needed after falling to Florida in five sets the first weekend of the season. Nebraska trailed that match 2-0, but rebounded to take it to the fifth set. They actually led 11-7 in that final set but let it get away.

The win over the Illini gave the Huskers a huge confidence boost.

"I think we can believe now that we can beat any team," Mancuso said. "On any given day, any team can be beaten. I think being down 2-0, that just strengthens our mental toughness and our belief that we can do it."

Mancuso did do it throughout her prep career at Papillion-La Vista (Neb.) High. She led the Monarchs to back-to-back state championships in 2007 and 2008 and was named the 2008 Gatorade National Player of the Year.

She's been with the Husker program now for just over a year but said her game has made huge

strides during that time.

"To be honest, I think I've grown in every single aspect,"

Mancuso said. "I

think on defense I'm stronger. Offensively I have more shots now. We practice so much that I think I've just improved in every situation and I'm still hoping to improve in my last years here."

SETTERS DEAD-EVEN

John Cook was looking for balance in the 6-2 offense, and it looks as if he's found it.

Lauren Cook had 245 set assists through the first 11 matches of the season when Sydney Anderson had 239.

"Her and Sydney are statistically almost dead-even which is great," John said. "That's what we want. We want to have six rotations all balanced. You look at their assists and it's almost dead-even every match."

"That's why our team is so great. I think anybody can come in and do a great job at any given time."

Around THE Horn

I BRIAN ROSENTHAL

THIS ISSUE MEN'S BASKETBALL SOCCER MEN'S GOLF CROSS COUNTRY



DOC
SADLER

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

SETTING AN EXAMPLE

Many kids in Hutchinson, Kan., affectionately know Caleb Walker as "Mr. K."

"Kids kind of gravitated to him," said Skip Wilson, chief professional officer of the Boys and Girls Club of Hutchinson, where Walker worked as an ambassador and vision leader.

In fact, the Boys and

Girls Club members were so attached to Walker, they threw him a special going-away party last summer when he left town to begin his Nebraska basketball career.

That day, Walker showed up in his regular green employee shirt. Everybody else in the building was wearing red. There were red

balloons and a big red cake with a Husker logo.

"He was pretty moved," Wilson said. "He wasn't expecting it."

But he was very appreciative. After all, Walker says he wouldn't be where he is today without the help and guidance of the Boys and Girls Club.

Walker grew up in



GOLF

Mike Coatman won his career first individual title by matching his lowest career round in Nebraska's only home golf tournament of the year.

Coatman, a senior from Lincoln Southwest, shot a 68 in the second round of the Fairway Club Invitational at Arbor Links in Nebraska City. That gave him a three-under 141.

Coatman first shot a 68 in the spring at the Jackrabbit Invitational, when he tied for seventh, his best career finish until this tournament.

As a team, the Huskers shot a six-over 582 (+6) in the two-round tournament that was shortened because of thunderstorms. Andrew Wyatt and Scott Willman each shot a two-over 146 and tied for 13th overall.

Houston and Kansas City, Mo., before moving to Hutchinson at age 13 to live with his father. Before that, he'd spent summers in Hutchinson, and his father sent him to the Boys and Girls Club, which offers structured programming and activities for youths ages 6-18.

"He was always in trouble, kind of a trouble-maker little kid," Wilson said.

Walker admits he "was a pain." But the more time he spent at the Boys and Girls Club, the more he learned and the more he matured.

When Walker left to play football and basketball at Butler Community College in nearby El Dorado, Kan., he returned to the club in his free time. He told kids about the dangers of tobacco use, helped organize dances, played sports with club members and helped deliver food on Thanksgiving.

"Because what I went through as a kid . . . I don't want to see kids go through what I had to go through," said Walker, a 6-foot-4 junior guard. "I'm not going to say what all, but lots of stuff a kid shouldn't have to go through. Just put it like that."

At his farewell party, Walker delivered an inspirational speech, telling club members to take advantage of the many opportunities at Boys and

Girls Club, find your niche and go for it.

"It's neat coming from him," Wilson said, "because we tell the kids that, and they're like, 'Whatever.' But when they hear it from one of their peers who's made it, that's kind of neat."

GETTING STRONGER

Doc Sadler said he wants a stronger basketball team this season – not only physically, but mentally.

The Nebraska coach had that in mind when planning the team's off-season conditioning program.

"We want to focus more on the mental toughness part

of it, instead of just being concerned about how much stronger they are getting," Sadler said. "We want them pushed to the limit. They've got to feel confidence-wise that maybe they are doing a little bit more than everybody else."

The conditioning drills, Sadler said, have been more basketball-related, which players can relate to in a game situation.

"We want to put them in a situation in conditioning where there is a minute to go and they are just exhausted and they've got to make times."

CROSS COUNTRY

Senior Lara Crofford became the first Nebraska women's cross country runner to win back-to-back individual titles since Fran ten Bensel (1990-92) when Crofford won the Woody Greeno/Nebraska Invitational.

Crofford, from Newville, Pa., won the race at Lincoln's Pioneers Park in a time of 21:01.31, as the Huskers swept the university division women's team championship. It's the sixth consecutive year Nebraska has accomplished that feat and the 16th time in the meet's 21-year history.

Crofford opened the season by winning the Creighton/



LARA CROFFORD

PHOTO BY BREANNA HAESSLER

UNO Classic.

Redshirted freshman Martina Barinova placed second, and the Huskers placed four more in the top 15, with junior Erica Hamik finishing fifth, Ashley Miller seventh, Jessica Furlan eighth and Jen Webers ninth.

York native David Adams was Nebraska's top finisher in the men's race, finishing second with a time of 24:51.1. As a team, Nebraska placed second, finishing one point shy of the title. Jesse Adams finished eighth and Trevor Vidlak finished 10th for the Huskers.

SOCCKER

Nebraska native Stacy Bartels scored her first and second career goals

in Nebraska's 3-1 victory over Cal State-Fullerton in Lincoln. Both goals came off assists from sophomore Jordan Jackson.

Bartels, a redshirted freshman from Omaha Skutt High School, scored both of

her goals in the second half to break a 1-1 tie. Nebraska allowed its first goal of the season at home but won for the sixth time in seven matches.

Bartels scored the game-winner in the 53rd minute

off a corner kick from Jackson. Sophomore Morgan Marlborough scored in the first half for her 27th career goal, tying her with Kori Saunders (1999-2002) for ninth place on Nebraska's all-time goals chart.



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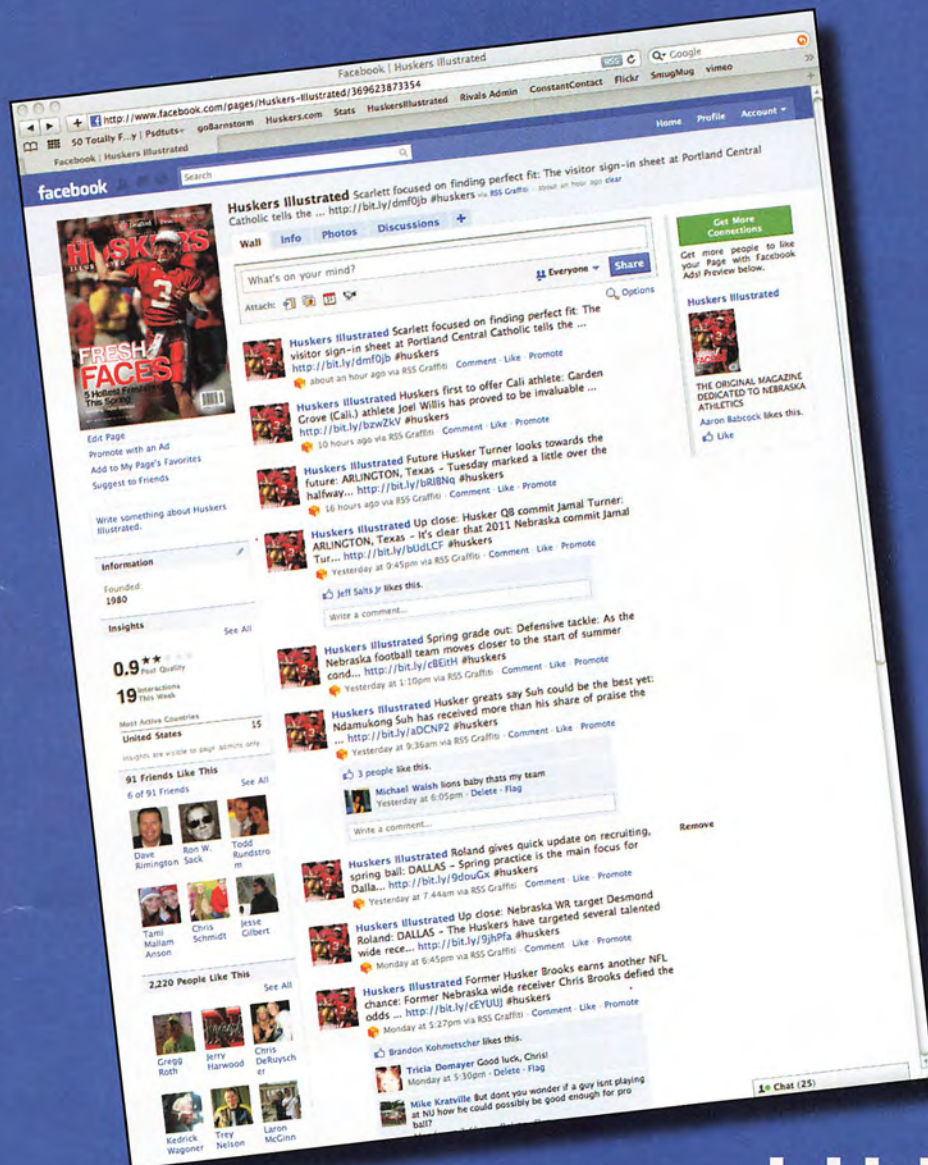


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FROM THE ARCHIVES |

NEBRASKA OVER OKLAHOMA

Turner Gill grew up wanting to play at Oklahoma. He acknowledged that on more than one occasion. The Sooners recruited him, for baseball as well as for football, and they made his final cut, along with Nebraska; those were the clear-cut finalists, in fact. Gill picked Nebraska because of Tom Osborne. Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer tried to convince him that he wouldn't play quarterback for the Cornhuskers, that they would make him a wide receiver or defensive back. But play quarterback he did. He was a three-time, first-team All-Big Eight selection. His record was 28-2 as a starter, including 20-0 in Big Eight play, and 2-0 against Oklahoma. He threw only 11 interceptions in 428 passing attempts – during one stretch, he threw 125 consecutive passes without an interception – and was the first Cornhusker quarterback to rush for 1,000 yards during his career, finishing with 1,317. Gill finished fourth in voting for the Heisman Trophy in 1983, behind teammate Mike Rozier.



GAMES REMEMBERED

Plug-and-Play Offense

Huskers go ultra conservative when forced to start third-string quarterback against Wildcats.

THE VICTORY provided a lesson in the value of an outstanding offensive line. The original "Pipeline" could make Nebraska's offense plug-and-play, as this game showed.

With Tommie Frazier sidelined by a blood-clot problem in his right leg and Brook Berringer dealing with a collapsed lung the previous two games, Nebraska turned to sophomore Matt Turman, a walk-on from Wahoo, Neb., to start at quarterback in the hostile environment.

In addition, No. 1 I-back Lawrence Phillips, who had rushed for more than 100 yards in each of Nebraska's first six games,

was playing with a badly sprained thumb.

To say the Cornhuskers' offensive plan was conservative was an understatement, with 40-of-60 plays from scrimmage run inside the tackles. Phillips carried 31 times for 117 yards.

Berringer, with a flak jacket protecting his chest, replaced Turman for the final series of the first half and finished the game, with instructions not to run options.

The quarterbacks threw only 11 passes combined, four complete for 52 yards.

Nebraska relied on the "Pipeline," defense and special teams; punter Darin Erstad kept the

Wildcats pinned deep in their own territory.

Kansas State finished with minus-7 yards rushing, and the Huskers sacked quarterback Chad May six times. May, who had passed for a Big Eight record 489 yards in a 45-28 loss at Nebraska the previous season, had been sacked only seven times in four games.

Linebacker Ed Stewart led the Blackshirts with nine tackles on one of the sacks. Grant Wistrom had two sacks, the first coming on the third play from scrimmage to set the tone.

TOM OSBORNE: "Coming down here, I wasn't sure that they weren't better."

NEBRASKA 17, KANSAS STATE 6

Oct. 15, 1994 • Manhattan, Kan.

Nebraska	7	0	0	10	--	17
Kansas State	0	6	0	0	--	6

(N) Lawrence Phillips 2 run (Darin Erstad kick)
(KS) Mitch Running 29 pass Chad May (kick blocked)
(N) Jeff Makovicka 15 run (Erstad kick)
(N) Erstad 24 field goal

Attendance: 42,817

DO YOU REMEMBER?

► The "Pipeline" was, from left tackle to right tackle: Rob Zatechka, Joel Wilks, Aaron Graham, Brenden Stai and Zach Wiegert.

► Kansas State had won 16 consecutive home games, and the Wildcats were ranked 11th and 16th nationally after a 4-0 start under coach Bill Snyder.

► The victory was Nebraska's 26th in a row against the Wildcats, dating to 1968. The streak would reach 29 before a 40-30 Kansas State victory at Manhattan in 1998.

► The No. 2-ranked Cornhuskers went into the game averaging 430 yards rushing per game. They managed 210. Their 17 points were the fewest against Kansas State since 1975. They dropped to No. 3 in the rankings the next week.

► Yes, current Husker linebackers coach Mike Ekeler was a Wildcat (see program cover).



CROSSWORD &TRIVIA

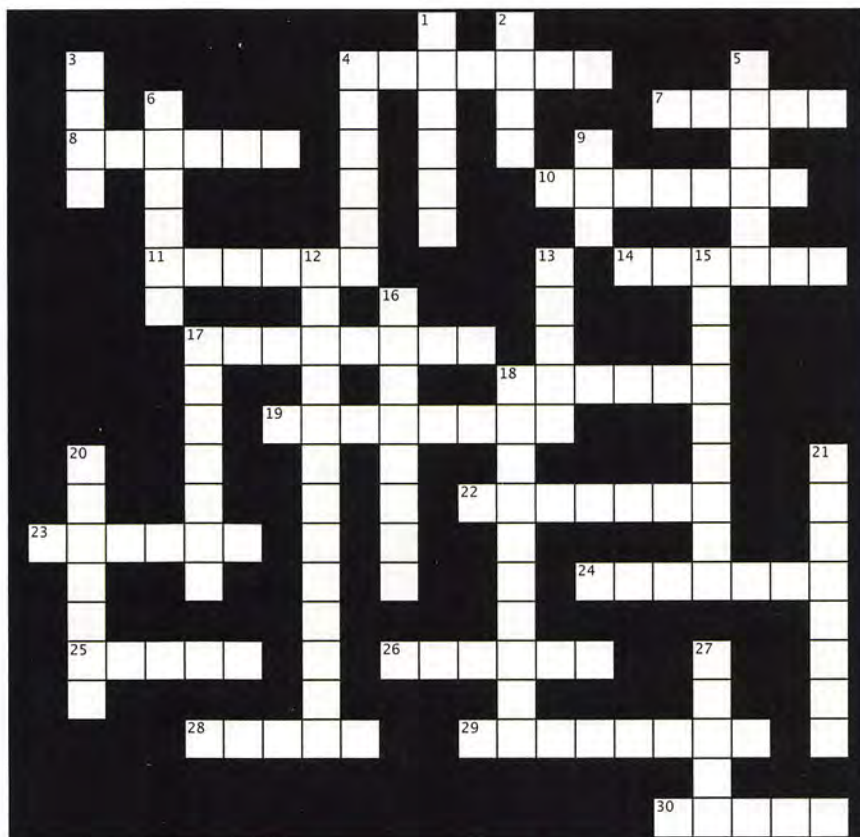
ACROSS

4. Caught touchdown pass vs. Washington
7. Wore retired number 64
8. Kansas State school color
10. Kickoff specialist
11. Offensive line coach
14. Assistant AD for football
17. Ex-Husker linebacker with Kansas City Chiefs
18. NU's third Heisman Trophy winner
19. Day of the week for NU-Kansas State game
22. 1994 Outland Trophy winner
23. Strength coach
24. Returned interception for touchdown vs. Washington
25. Wore retired No. 60
26. Leading receiver vs. Washington
28. No. of Huskers rushing for 100+ yards vs. Washington
29. Leading rusher vs. Washington
30. Rex Burkhead's home state

DOWN

1. Kansas State head coach
2. Head coach before Bo
3. Network for NU-Kansas State telecast
4. Leading tackler vs. Washington
5. 2006 College Football Hall of Fame inductee
6. Former Kansas State head coach
9. No. 2 overall pick in 2010 NFL Draft
12. Oct. 23 opponent
13. Wears No. 74
15. Kansas State campus location
16. First-round selection in 2007 NFL Draft
17. 2009 College Football Hall of Fame inductee
18. Taylor Martinez's home state
20. 2011 non-conference opponent
21. Kansas State nickname
27. Athletic director before Tom

Answers will appear in the Oct. 16 issue



HUSKERNUTZ



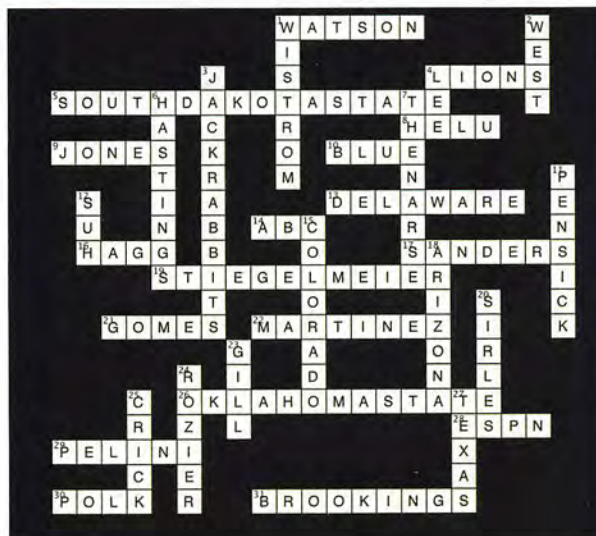
IF PEOPLE CAN TAKE THEIR KIDS TO WATCH THE HUSKERS PLAY, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE YOUR BEST FRIEND.



BRAIN BUSTER

I began my Cornhusker career as an offensive guard but moved to middle guard early in my sophomore season. I was a two-time consensus All-American. As a junior, I blocked three punts and recovered two for touchdowns. As a senior, I led the nation's No. 1-ranked defense with 119 tackles and finished ninth in voting for the Heisman Trophy. I came from Bay City, Mich. Who am I? *Answer will appear in our next issue*

SEPT. 18 ANSWER: Colorado, the other schools were members of the Missouri Valley Conference when Memorial Stadium opened in 1923.





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

There are worse things than winning ugly

THE CORNHUSKER fans in the southwest corner of Memorial Stadium joined with the South Dakota State fans in standing and applauding when the visitors left the field at game's end.

The home folks' applause was more than courtesy. It was deserved.

South Dakota State, a Football Championship Subdivision team that had suffered losses to Delaware and Illinois State, matched Nebraska's intensity and with a break or two might have matched the Huskers on the scoreboard, though at no point, really, did it seem as if it would win.

Still, the Jackrabbits managed to hang around. And hey, you never know.

For instance, no way would most people have expected Nebraska safety Rickey Thenarse to be exhorting the crowd with 10:38 remaining in the fourth quarter and the score 17-3.

In fact, some people might have expected the score to be 17-3 at the end of the first quarter, and most probably would have expected Thenarse to be on the sideline with the rest of the Husker starters by the fourth quarter, watching as reserves were rewarded for their hard work in practice.

And yes, it was a good week of practice, according to coach Bo Pelini.

But no reserves got an opportunity. Just 39 Huskers were listed on the participation chart, three more than

South Dakota State used. Players have to "earn" the right to leave a game and allow reserves to come in, Pelini said. And that didn't happen; the outcome was still in doubt.

Also, no way would most people have expected redshirted freshman quarterback Taylor Martinez to finally look like a redshirted freshman against a winless FCS opponent after looking so unflappable in his first three games, the third in the disconcerting din of Washington's Husky Stadium.

But Martinez lost a fumble, threw two interceptions and generally made "bad decisions," said Pelini. "He didn't execute the offense the way he has been. Why? I don't know.

"He's a young guy who didn't respond very well."

As a result, Cody Green, who didn't get his as-planned, second-quarter series, replaced Martinez with 9:46 remaining, on a series that began at the Nebraska 1-yard line no less, and finished the game.

Pelini wasn't singling out Martinez, however. "It was pretty much a team effort in being a bad football team today," he said. "I take it squarely on my shoulders."

Specifically, he said, he didn't have the Huskers prepared to play.

Junior linebacker Lavonte David, who was credited with 19 tackles,

disagreed. "As a player, I feel like it's on us," he said. "Coach Pelini did a great job of preparing us this week."

Pelini was asked if he were angry. No, he said, disappointment was a better description.

"I always believe when you walk out there, you're going to get better or you're going to get worse. We got worse," he said. "I call it as I see it. I'm not going to try and paint a picture that's different. A lot of the same things that came out today were things that reach out and grab you in practice.

"When errors aren't being corrected and people aren't making adjustments and are repeating errors, that's a problem. It'll reach up and get you. Across the board we didn't execute. Forget about everything else. We didn't take the field and do what we're coached to do."

The Huskers now have an off-week before opening the Big 12 schedule at Kansas State in a Thursday night game televised nationally by ESPN.

The Wildcats escaped with a 17-13 victory at home against Central Florida. It's reasonable to assume Kansas State fans weren't standing and applauding as Central Florida left the field.

Oh yes, and there are a lot worse things than winning against an FCS opponent 17-3. How about Texas losing at home to UCLA, 34-12? **N**

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